

# welcome to everyday people!



Most of us see ourselves as ordinary, everyday people! We're not perfect! We have our flaws and blemishes. We're not those elegant and expensive pots you might find on the shelf of a museum. We're more like common flower pots someone would use for growing flowers. But God can transform us from lumps of ordinary clay into unique and useful jars of clay—people.

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

(2 CORINTHIANS 4:7 NIV)

If we decide to place our ordinary lives into the hands of the “Master Potter,” God will shape and use us in some surprising and extraordinary ways. Romans 12:1 says,

*So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life--you're sleeping, eating, going-to-work and walking-around life--and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.*

(ROMANS 12:1 THE MESSAGE)

The hymn writer, Adelaide Pollard, wrote: “*Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.*” And Elizabeth Goodine, a contemporary songwriter, has written: *Lord, You formed me out of clay, For Your glory I was made, Use this vessel as You choose, Let my life, O Lord, praise You.* (© 1992 New Spring)



As you prepare for this mission experience, may God center, shape, fill and use you. May you discover the presence and power of God in your life and know the joy that comes when you serve and bless others.

Frank Nelson, Author

# in 7 days we travel



Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Everyday People CHOOSE

### **C** Center me...

Take a deep breath, relax, and open your self and your life to God. Imagine that you are a lump of clay in the center of a potter's wheel. Know that you are in God's hands, and let your life be centered and shaped by God. Repeat this prayer over and over: *I place my life in Your hands, Lord, center me in Your will...I place my life in Your hands, Lord, center me in Your will.*

### **S** Shape me...

Underline a word or phrase that stands out as something God wants you to notice...

*Jesus said...You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.*

(JOHN 15:16-17 NIV)

List some of your reasons for CHOOSING to go on this mission trip:

Why do you think God wants you to go?

More from God's Word: Joshua 24:15; Deuteronomy 30:16-20; Galatians 5:16-18

### **F** Fill me...

Evaluate your life based on some of the choices you have made recently. Seek forgiveness for any that have been unwise or wrong, and receive God's forgiveness. Think about your relationship with God. Pray... *Dear God, help me be ready for this trip. Thank you for choosing me. Shape me into the person You need for me to be. Guide our mission team to love each other even more than we do. May I become more centered in Your purposes for this trip. Help me to bear the "fruit that will last." And Lord, I want to make this commitment to You: (write a promise about this trip to God)...*

### **U** Use me...

Choose someone who could use your help and during the next 24 hours, let God use you to help them.



## mission day 2

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

the weather today is...  
(circle one)



my mood today is...  
(circle one)



### Everyday People SERVE

**C** Center me...

Breathe deeply the air of this new place. Breathe in the Spirit and love of God. Look around you and open your eyes to all that is new and unfamiliar. Relax in the newness, and let the strong, gentle hands of the Master Potter (God) shape your thoughts and attitudes. Receive the peace of God.

**S** Shape me...

Underline a word or phrase that stands out to you.

*Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

(MARK 10:43-45 NIV)

*Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all—he is the greatest."* (LUKE 9:48 NIV)

According to Jesus, who are the truly "great" people in the world?

During the coming week what are some ways you can help the children you will meet to feel welcomed and loved?

**More from God's Word:** Psalm 100; Deuteronomy 30:16-20; Romans 9:20-21

**F** Fill me...

*Dear God, I want to be "great" in Your eyes, although I confess, I spend a lot of time trying to be "great" in the eyes of others. Help me to serve You. As I meet children this week, give me the ability to talk and play with them, welcome and love them as Jesus would. And God, I especially need You to help me to serve in this situation or with this person (continue to write your own prayer)....*



## **24** *During the Past 24 Hours...*

Something I saw...

Something I tasted...

Something I touched...

Something I heard...

Something I smelled...

I learned that...

I met a person named \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ was kind and helpful to me.

My 24-hour "best point" was...

My 24-hour "low point" was...

I felt God's presence and help when...

I saw an example of a servant when (Who? Did what?)...

I tried to be a servant when I...

## **U** *Use me...*

Find a small rock or pebble to carry with you during the week. Let it remind you of God's constant presence and God's plan for you to serve others during the week. (At the end of the trip carry the rock back home as a reminder to continue to serve God and others.)



*notes, doodles, and drawings*



# back home: day 1

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

weather/mood  
(circle one each)

## Everyday People GIVE THANKS

### C Center me...

Breathe, relax, and center your thoughts by giving thanks to God for the experiences of the mission trip. Repeat this prayer over and over, *I am full of thanks, Lord, and I praise Your Holy Name...I'm full of thanks, Lord, and I praise Your Holy Name.*

### S Shape me...

Underline a word or phrase that stands out to you...

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. (PSALM 118:1,28 NIV)*

*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

(1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 NIV)

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 NIV)*



Why do you think God thinks it's important for you to be "thankful?"

What is the one thing you feel most thankful for today?

More from God's Word: Psalm 118; Philippians 4:4-9; Colossians 3:12-17

### F Fill me...

*Dear Lord, like a glass overflowing, teach me to be so full of Your love and joy that good things overflow from my life into the lives of others. Help me to be thankful, especially, in the following situations and relationships of my life...*

### U Use me...

Write a thank-you note (or email) to a friend or family member listing some of the things that you appreciate about them. If possible, give the note or send the email today.